

**DRESS DOWN
RECIPIENTS**

September—Mercy Flight

October— Honor Flight Buffalo

November—Food Pantry

December —Warm the Children

January—Eden Volunteer Fire Department

February—East Eden Volunteer Fire Department

March—Eden Emergency Squad

April—Eden Library

May—Meals on Wheels

June—Eden Community Foundation

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TOGETHER

VOLUME 20, ISSUE 5

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Happy Retirement to Sheila Harris, Janice O'Brien and Mary Nowicki

Excerpts from the ETA Retirement Program

The ETA Retirement Dinner was held on Thursday, June 11, 2015 at Pearl Street Grill & Brewery. This event allowed the entire Eden School Community an opportunity to say goodbye to our dedicated professionals who have given many years of their lives to the education of children.

Sheila Harris

Sheila came to Eden in 1971 to do her student teaching and never left – fortunately. A graduate of Buffalo State College, Sheila has been teaching in



Eden for 37 years. Sheila says her favorite thing about teaching were all those mo-

ments when you could see that the students loved learning, they were excited to discover something new. Upon her retirement Sheila plans to spend time with her husband Hank, and children Brianna, 29; Matt 28; and Kiernan 25. Sheila says she has loved her years of teaching in the Eden School community and the people she has worked with. Needless to say, the feeling is mutual.

Janice O'Brien

Jan's lesson in penmanship was impressive enough to land her a job at Eden Elementary. She's spent the last twelve years teaching 6th grade Social Studies and ELA. Jan has always



taken an active role as a teacher at Eden. She served as an

ETA rep and has worked on several negotiation teams. Jan joined committees to write ELA and Social Studies curriculum, and volunteered at many PTA Christmas festivals. She devoted countless hours to assist with costumes and make-up for every Elementary musical. The Reading Nook on the Elementary front lawn is a testament to Jan's determination and drive to complete a project that benefits our students. Jan plans to enjoy her well-deserved retirement by traveling, spending time with Jack and extended family at her cabin at Allegany, and most of all, enjoying her grandchildren.

Mary Nowicki

Mary came to Eden after being

recommended by the wife of Paul Ludwig (former principal) who was a student in one of her evening classes at Hilbert College. During her career at Eden, she was teacher of the year, she was nominated by her students to Who's Who of America's and she served on every district committee except the PTA. She also ran the school store, FBLA advisor, department chairperson, and active in the ETA serving as President, Vice President, Secretary, and building rep. Her goal was for all



students in her classes to have an A or a B. Her greatest joy in teaching was developing student's talent in layout

and design by teaching professional programs such as Adobe InDesign and Photoshop. There is no greater joy than seeing that mental light bulb light up and burn bright as a student realizes, "wow, I can't believe I made that". Mary and her husband Hank plan on boating and retiring in the Bahamas.✂

ETA Award Recipients

The following people were nominated and received an award at the ETA Retirement Dinner:

- ◆ Laura Ann Felser
- ◆ Lory Mohan

- ◆ Kathy Slisz
- ◆ Kathy Klopp
- ◆ Michelle Berne
- ◆ Amy Porter
- ◆ Sara Rockwood-Klute

- ◆ Kerstin Crinnin
- ◆ Shana Cole

Thank you for your hard work and dedication to the Eden Community.✂

ETA Officers 2013-14



President:	Colleen Kot, 2015
Vice President:	Mark Vona, 2015
Treasurer:	Laura Feasley, 2015
Secretary:	Terri Blaszc, 2015

GLP Reps

Linda Schwanz, Head Rep,
2017

Colleen Griffin, 2016

Carol King, 2017

Main Street Reps

Lorry Malkowski, Head Rep,
2016

Judy Maynard, 2016

Mark Vona, 2017

Amy Witman, 2017

Jr./Sr. High Reps

Paula Farrell, Head Rep, 2016

Susan Gianiodis, 2017

Olivia Doctor, 2016

Steve Jones, 2017

Monica Donovan, 2017

Lynn Morgan, 2017

Phil Archabald, 2016

Paul O'Connor, 2017

Committee Reps 2014-15

A complete listing of
committee members is
available at our website:

www.etaunion.org

**ETA DRESS
DOWN IS THE
FIRST
FRIDAY OF
EACH MONTH**

TOGETHER is the official newsletter of the Edin Teacher's Association and is published bimonthly.

Submissions are subject to editorial review and may be edited for clarity and length. Submission of articles and suggestions for this publication can be transmitted through ETA building reps. or via e-mail at: JRamaekers@edencsd.wnyric.org

Any information that needs to be communicated in a more timely fashion should be featured on our Website. To place information on the website contact Webmaster Lorry Malkowski



Benefits that matter to you!

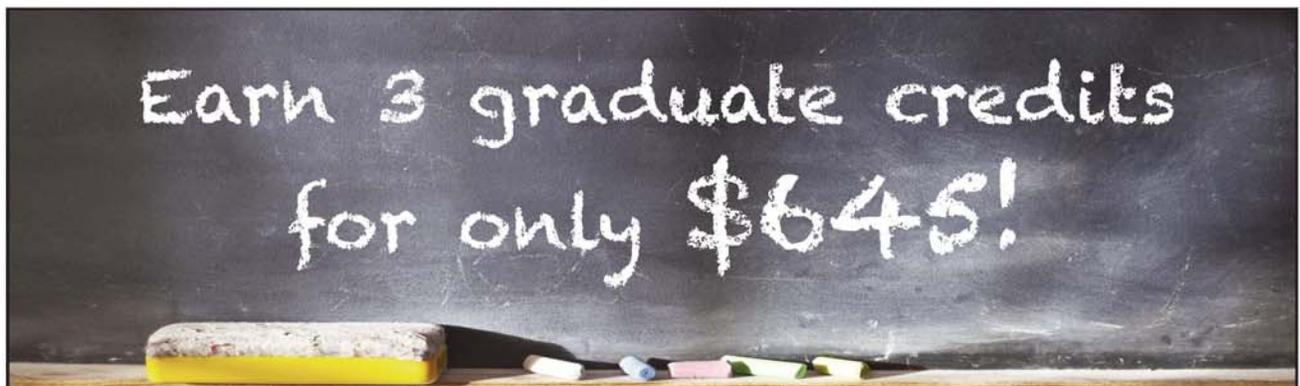
Membership in NYSUT allows you to enjoy the benefits of the more than 40 programs & services endorsed by NYSUT Member Benefits.

These endorsed programs include crucial products that the majority of NYSUT members already purchase:

- Homeowners Insurance
- Auto Insurance
- Legal & Financial Services
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To learn more about Member Benefits-endorsed programs & services, visit memberbenefits.nysut.org or call 800-626-8101.

For information about contractual endorsement arrangements with providers of endorsed programs, please contact NYSUT Member Benefits. Agency fee payers to NYSUT are eligible to participate in NYSUT Member Benefits-endorsed programs.



For more than 30 years, the NYSUT Education & Learning Trust has been offering professional development programs created with the NYSUT member in mind -- providing an extensive online inventory with studies to fit your busy schedule.

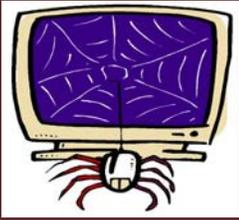
The Education & Learning Trust offers online, VESi or in-classroom courses for graduate, undergraduate and in-service credit. Professional development training is available for public education issues such as:

- School Quality
- Student Achievement
- Achievement Gaps
- Teacher Retention
- Special Education
- Cultural Diversity
- Classroom Management
- And Much More

To learn more about ELT programs available and/or register online, visit nysut.org/inspire or call 800-528-6208.



Lorry's Links

**BotLogic**

BotLogic.us is an educational puzzle game that challenges kids and adults to tackle complex logic problems while teaching valuable programming concepts. Using simple commands (and eventually code), players program their bots to navigate through progressively challenging mazes. As their skills improve, players earn rewards by using the fewest number of commands and go head-to-head with friends in programming tournaments.

<http://botlogic.us/#sthash.3bHpKkYg.dpbs>

Fire Safety Dogs

Learn about fire safety with Tango, Molly, and Siren, the fire safety dogs. View a short video on fire safety or print coloring pages featuring the dogs. Each Friday morning watch the live stream of Sparkle's Safety Spot on the website. Sign up to take part in a Skype session featuring a fire safety dog, singing, a read-aloud, and question and answer time. Be sure to look around the entire site for many educational resources for elementary students.

<http://www.firesafetydogs.com/index.html>

Garbology

Garbology is an interactive that teaches about garbage and answers the question, "Where should my waste go?" While exploring, uncover startling facts about trash, waste, recycling, reuse, landfills, and composting. Find lessons and activities to extend your Garbology knowledge, from how to pack a waste-less lunch to getting the dirt on composting.

<http://www.naturebridge.org/garbology.php>

Hope everyone has a safe and relaxing summer!

Lorry

Raider Recognition



- ◆ Stephen Pierce—Coach of the Year, Buffalo News Prep Talk
- ◆ Michelle Berne-Thank you for hosting the Retirement and Awards Dinner
- ◆ Thank you to ETA Officers, Reps, and Committee members for your hard work and dedication to the Eden Teacher's Association.

Eden Hero

A hero is defined in the Merriam-Webster Dictionary as a person who is admired for great or brave acts or fine qualities.

On Monday, February 9th, Laura Ann Felser was driving her children and herself to school when she saw a peculiar sight. A man was lying in the snow on the side of the road next to his car. It was a very cold day and early in the morning, so she decided to investigate. The man, barely responsive, was obviously in distress. While many cars just drove by, she scrambled to call 9-1-1 and then sat trying to warm his ice cold hands. As the Eden Fire and Rescue Team arrived, she remained holding his hands and talking him through the ordeal until he was loaded into the ambulance. Unrecognizable in this state, she soon discovered this man was the father of one of her students. Emotionally she continued to school, unsure of his fate, only to face his very worried and confused daughter who did not understand where her father went after he dropped her sister off at the high school.

This story has a happy ending because of Laura Ann's great acts. She showed the fine qualities of a hero by being an outstanding citizen. ✂

Teacher Center News

By Kathleen Degroat

JULY 14th NBC AWARENESS SESSION

Not sure what NBC is or what is involved? This informational session is for you! The session will include a brief overview of the process including: application, component descriptions, and grant funding.

9:00 AM-11:00 AM Erie Catt Teacher Center, 3000 School View Rd, Eden, NY

Click here to register enter password ectc OR Register at <http://www.e2ccb.org/ectc>. Click Forms on the left navigation block, click ECTC 2015 SUMMER COURSE REGISTRATION, enter password etc.

Do you utilize iPads in your classroom or are you looking into the possibilities? Each class is being presented by someone currently using iPads successfully.

2015 iPad Symposium: iPad Tips and Techniques

07/14/15 12:00-3:00 at ECTC 3000 Schoolview, Eden, NY, room 28

This class will focus on iPad tips and techniques that will surprise you.

Service Awards

10 Years of Service

Amber Costanzo
 Marisa Fallacaro
 Johanna Funke
 Lisa Geraci
 Kristen Jusiak
 Nicole Lauer
 Beth Levakoff
 Sara Rockwood-Klute

20 years of Service

Lynn Morgan
 Robert Pierce
 Stephen Pierce
 Ann Preischel

25 Years of Service

Janice O'Brien
 Carol Stumpf

In January, the ETA hosted its 9th Annual Movie Night which raised over \$1300 for The Eden Boy's and Girl's Club. Thank you to Tom Wall and the social committee. Also, a thank you to all the members for creating baskets for the auction.

Ad in Eden Pennysaver By: Keith Kwas

Eden teachers provide a quality, caring education and support many local organizations in the Eden community including: the Eden Boys and Girls Club, Eden Food Pantry, Eden Library

Eden Fire Dept., East Eden Fire Dept., Eden Emergency Squad, Eden Community Foundation, Warm the Children, Meals On Wheels, Mercy Flight, and the Autism Walk to name a few

nysut
A Union of Professionals

has recognized our association again
 to be a recipient of NYSUT's
Local Community Service Award.
 Our teachers have donated over \$6,000 to local charities.

Sick Bank

By Joann Ramaekers

The sick bank is healthy; therefore, there should be no need to collect additional days from members next year.

If you are **not** a member of the sick bank, the membership drive will begin in September and close on/or before October 1. If you were hired after October 1, 1999, you are eligible to become a member of the sick bank after the completion of 3 years and 1 day of employment, provided the employee has accumulated 30 sick leave days at that time. Each eligible member shall initially contribute five (5) sick leave days from his/her sick leave accumulation. For additional details, please refer to the ETA Contract Section 6.2 Sick Leave Bank (SLB).

President's Message

THE IMPORTANCE OF A STRONG UNION

In 1967, the Public Employees' Fair Employment Act "Taylor Law" was passed. This law gave educators the right to organize and bargain for the teachers in their union, but prohibits them from striking. In 1982- Triborough was added to the Taylor Law, which allows the terms of an expired agreement (contract) to remain in full force. Governor Cuomo would like to see this go away. Without a union, there is no freedom of speech, no freedom of the press, and you are guilty until proven innocent. We cannot allow tenure (which guarantees us due process before being fired) to be abolished.

The strength of the ETA will be as strong as our members make it. An informed member knows the role of the union and what it can do for its members. It is never too late to get involved. Don't wait until you need the union, the union **NEEDS YOU!** You are the eyes and ears of the union. If something doesn't seem or sound right, check it out to prevent it from becoming a possible problem.

It is the duty of the union to represent its members and that means **ALL** of its members. Concerns should be brought to your building rep. If it appears that it is a contractual issue (possible grievance), please familiarize yourself with the time lines for filing. If your building rep has questions, please share your concerns with the head building rep, who will decide where it should go from there. It is **YOUR** responsibility to keep track of your appointment date and that you are teaching at least .40 in your tenure area (HS teachers only). Take the time to attend a BOE meeting or check the minutes that are posted on the district web page.

As you have now heard, negotiations with the District are not going well. A crisis team has been established to bring attention to the District that we are not happy with the status quo. It is imperative that we all support the ideas and activities that this committee has come up with to get this message across. If we refuse to stand together, we will **NEVER** be able to make a change for the better.

In closing, I would like to thank the faculty and staff. It was a difficult year for many reasons, but we continued to perform well and provide an excellent education to our students. Please enjoy your summer and get all those things done that you have not been able to do throughout the year. Come back refreshed and recharged.

Colleen Kot

